

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 252

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding human rights violations in Tibet, the Panchen Lama, and the need for dialogue between the Chinese leadership and the Dalai Lama or his representatives.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2002

Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JUNE 3, 2002

Reported by Mr. BIDEN, with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble

JUNE 4, 2002

Considered, amended, and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding human rights violations in Tibet, the Panchen Lama, and the need for dialogue between the Chinese leadership and the Dalai Lama or his representatives.

Whereas Gedhun Choekyi Nyima was taken from his home by Chinese authorities on May 17, 1995, at the age of 6, shortly after being recognized as the 11th incarnation of the Panchen Lama by the Dalai Lama;

Whereas the forced disappearance of the Panchen Lama violates fundamental freedoms enshrined in international

human rights covenants to which the People's Republic of China is a party, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

Whereas the use of religious belief as a criterion for repression against Tibetans reflects a continuing pattern of grave human rights violations that have occurred since the invasion of Tibet in 1949–50;

Whereas the State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2001 states that repressive social and political controls continue to limit the fundamental freedoms of Tibetans and risk undermining Tibet's unique cultural, religious, and linguistic heritage, and that repeated requests for access to the Panchen Lama to confirm his well-being and whereabouts have been denied;

Whereas the releases of political prisoners Ngawang Choephel, a 36-year-old ethnomusicologist on January 20, 2002, after 6 years in prison, and Tanak Jigme Sangpo, a 76-year-old schoolteacher on March 31, 2002, after 32 years in prison, were facilitated in part by diplomatic efforts of the United States Government and are welcome, modest developments in the campaign to encourage the Chinese Government to respect human rights, including religious freedom, and to release remaining prisoners of conscience;

Whereas the appointment of the Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs, Paula J. Dobriansky, as the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues is a sign of the high priority the United States Government places on the political and religious liberties of the people of Tibet; and

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has failed to respond positively to efforts by the Dalai Lama to enter into dialogue based on his proposal for genuine autonomy within the People's Republic of China with a view to safeguarding the distinct identity of Tibet and protecting the human rights of the Tibetan people: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the
- 2 Government of the People's Republic of China should—
- 3 (1) release the Panchen Lama and allow him to
- 4 pursue his traditional role at the Tashi Lhunpo
- 5 monastery in Tibet; and
- 6 (2) enter into dialogue with the Dalai Lama or
- 7 his representatives in order to find a negotiated so-
- 8 lution for genuine autonomy that respects the rights
- 9 of all Tibetans.

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